

Monday, November 24, 2003

Leesburg Dedicates Henry Pringle Field at Leesburg Regional Airport

Silver Lake Estates through Henry Pringle, gifted land to the City of Leesburg on March 23, 1948, that encompasses the Leesburg Regional Airport.

The City of Leesburg will honor Henry Pringle and the Pringle family, with a Dedication Celebration of Henry Pringle Field on Tuesday, November 25, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. at the Leesburg Regional Airport. The Dedication Ceremony will be held at Echo Drive and N. highway 441, along with the unveiling of a new airport entrance sign.

Several projects have been completed during the past year to enhance the safety, security and beautification of the Leesburg Regional Airport. Security lighting has been installed to heighten visibility and security along Echo Drive, Airport Boulevard and Wilco Drive. While the extra lighting is functional, it is also decorative and improves aesthetically the overall look at the airport.

Additionally, 11 corporate T-hangars were constructed and, new as well as upgraded landscaping has been added to give a face-lift to the airport property. Signage has also been added or improved overall.

On March 1, 1942 the first runway was ready for concrete and on April 1, 1942 the second runway followed suit. All those years ago, two 1,500-foot runways were constructed. Earlier this year however, the existing taxiways were overlayed to provide greater safety for large jet landings. Now, runway 3/21 is 4,960 feet and runway 13/31 is 5,000 feet.

The best is yet to come! A new line service building will soon be constructed to offer a pilot's lounge, comfortable waiting room, snooze area, and a flight planning area with state-of-the-art weather and information system. The line service building will also serve as a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Inspection station.

A new fire rescue station is scheduled to begin construction in early 2004 and should be completed in the summer of 2004. The new fire rescue station will house an Airport Fire Fighting (ARFF) truck that is designed to penetrate an aircraft with a laser beam and simultaneously inject foam into the aircraft.

An air traffic control tower is also slated for construction in the near future.

In a brochure for the 40th anniversary of the Leesburg Regional Airport, the Pringle family ran an ad that read: "Congratulations to the Leesburg Airport on this Anniversary Celebration and to Henry Pringle who recognized that a gift of land was the gift of growth for Leesburg and Lake County over 40 years ago...and gave that gift."

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